



# Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol  
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

*Holiday 2007*

## State-of-the-Art Visitor Center Opens to State Capitol Guests

In October Secretary of State Charlie Daniels debuted a new Visitor Center on the first floor of the State Capitol, fulfilling a dream to showcase the building as an interactive laboratory of learning.

Daniels said the grand opening marked “the realization of a vision I’ve had for our State Capitol that included the promenade and front steps repaired to their original state, the stonework on the dome restored to gleaming white, and a true visitor center offering many multi-faceted services to the nearly 100,000 visitors the Capitol receives every year.”

The project included renovating the Capitol Gift Shop, the police desk, the U.S. Post Office and the tour desk. Workers replaced outdated paneling with hand-crafted millwork and marble countertops. “We took cues from design elements already in place in other areas of the building,” Daniels said.

The Capitol Visitor Center includes a state-of-the-art digital touchscreen that serves as an interactive information center, complete with a building directory and schedule of meetings and events. Wireless hotspots provide internet access in the visitor center’s business area, the Capitol Café, second floor rotunda, third floor snack stand and the Capitol Hill building.

(See VISITOR continued on Page 2)



Matt DeCample, director of communications for Governor Mike Beebe, gets a personal demonstration of the Capitol’s new interactive information center from Secretary of State Charlie Daniels and Deputy Secretary Janet Harris.



*In this season of giving, it is wonderful to have the opportunity to assist another state with a small gift from the people of Arkansas. That happened just a few weeks ago when officials from Utah sought our help with the restoration of their Capitol’s chandelier, which is a twin of the Mitchell-Vance fixture that hangs in our Capitol rotunda.*

*In 2002, Arkansas replaced the globes in our fixture with modern pieces as it is no longer possible to re-create the unique qualities of the glass. With a small gesture of goodwill, I was honored to extend the life of those original globes by presenting a few of them to the people of Utah. They now shine on, shedding a bit of light from the foothills of the Ouachitas into the Wasatch mountain range.*

*Just as Utah is preserving their Capitol, we continue restoration work here in Little Rock. One of my long-standing dreams became reality this fall when we re-designed the first-floor rotunda area into a state-of-the-art visitor center.*

## The New Home Page: More Info, Fewer Clicks

Frequent users of the Secretary of State’s website noticed a big change when they logged on in October. A new, more user-friendly design now offers more information at a glance, so it’s easier for visitors to find the specific services they need in just a couple of clicks.

With more than 6,000 hits on the website daily, the site is a vital link for the people of Arkansas. It provides information on Arkansas elections, business filings and franchise tax payments, as well as information on the State Capitol and the State of

Arkansas in general. Over time, the number of online features has expanded, necessitating a more streamlined format.

The new interface provides a clearer picture of options that are available from the home page. Service areas are grouped into simplified categories that help both experienced and first-time users find what they need. The re-designed front page also provides more room for current news and makes the links to the most-visited pages more prominent.

(See HOME PAGE continued on Page 2)



Continued from front page

*We now turn back to the Capitol's exterior with a new grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council.*

*The \$1.2 million award will fund work on the west façade. In early 2008, crews will begin repairing, cleaning and sealing the stonework in order to halt deterioration that has stained the surface over the decades. This next phase will apply the same techniques that returned the gleam to the Capitol dome and north façade.*

*Over the next three years, I will continue to seek funds that will enable us to restore the remaining sections of the Capitol. Preserving and protecting this historic gem is a gift to the citizens of Arkansas today and for generations to come.*

*I wish you the happiest of holidays and invite you to join us for the annual Capitol Lighting Ceremony on December 1!*

## Let Us Know!

### Need a Speaker?

The Secretary of State offers specialized programs for students, civic groups, businesses and others. To schedule a speaker for your group, call (501) 683-3702 or e-mail [speaker@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:speaker@sos.arkansas.gov).

### Need to Update?

If you receive duplicate issues of this newsletter, need to change your address or wish to receive future issues electronically, call (501) 683-0057 or e-mail [arsos@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:arsos@sos.arkansas.gov) with the subject line "subscribeCR."

VISITOR continued from front page

Behind the tour desk hang three large panels that make a dramatic statement in the new décor. The artwork depicts how the Capitol's original architect, George Mann, envisioned the building. (See related article on page 4.)

The expanded Capitol Gift Shop pro-

vides almost twice the previous amount of retail space to accommodate a greater selection of Arkansas souvenirs to the Capitol's visitors.

The State Capitol building is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

## Rotunda Chandelier Donates New Light to Utah Mate

The Capitol's Rotunda chandelier was one of twin fixtures crafted by the Mitchell-Vance Company in New York. Installed circa 1913, it has since crowned the building as a majestic work of functional art.

But rarity and time created problems. The Secretary of State's office sent the chandelier to the St. Louis Antique Lighting Company for restoration in 2002. Four of the 16 glass diffusers, or globes, had been broken. The globes' distinctive appearance, a mixture of opal and alabaster glass called al-al, was the product of toxic substances. Since it could not be duplicated, and to avoid having visibly different globes on the chandelier, the state opted to replace all the globes, etched to closely resemble the originals. The unbroken originals were packed and stored.

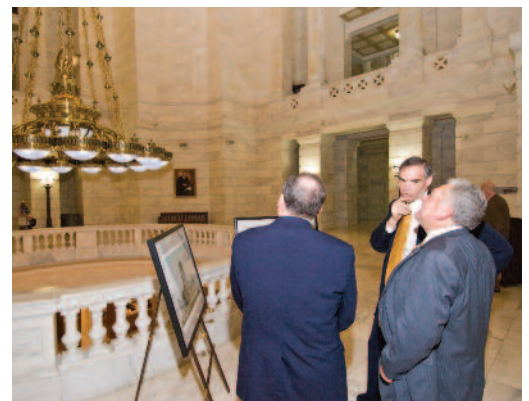
In January 2007, the Utah Capitol Preservation Board contacted Secretary of State Charlie Daniels. Utah's state capitol holds the twin to Arkansas's chandelier, and Utah faced the same problem with broken globes and al-al glass.

Daniels authorized the transfer of

eight of Arkansas's globes to Utah, making the chandelier a "diffuser donor" and giving its light "a bit of virtual DNA from its Arkansas twin," Daniels said.

Delegates from Utah attended a ceremony in October after Secretary of State building personnel cleaned the chandelier and changed the light bulbs – a process that occurs approximately every five years.

As a gift from the state of Utah, the delegates presented Arkansas with watercolor renderings of the Arkansas and Utah State Capitols. The watercolors are on display in the Capitol.



Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels visits with Utah representatives Wilson Martin and David Hart after exchanging gifts between the states.

HOME PAGE continued from front page

The home page better unites a number of targeted web sites that the Secretary of State offers for various programs. From the main page, it's easier to find links to classroom resources ([www.soskids.gov](http://www.soskids.gov)), young voter programs, ([www.wannabeheard.org](http://www.wannabeheard.org)), election information ([www.ar-elections.org](http://www.ar-elections.org)), the one-stop shop for voter information ([www.votenaturally.org](http://www.votenaturally.org)), and a tool for confirming your voter registration information ([www.voterview.org](http://www.voterview.org)).

If you have questions or suggestions for further improvements to the website, contact us at (501) 682-1010 or [arsos@arkansas.gov](mailto:arsos@arkansas.gov)





## Young Voters Program Launches Successful Fall Edition

To help turn the tide on low turnout among young voters, the Secretary of State's office has built a program to reach out to high school students and inspire them to make their voices heard on Election Day. Always a popular spring workshop, the Arkansas Young Voters program expanded this year by adding a fall session that drew almost 280 students to the State Capitol.

Held October 9-11, the daily sessions included a mock election, a review of the history of voting rights in America, current events discussions and information on high school poll worker programs. Amy Garrett, education specialist at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, led a discussion on civil rights. Students watched video interviews with Georgia's U.S. Congressman John Lewis, a participant in the Selma-to-Montgomery March, and other leaders in the struggle for civil rights.



Eligible students had the opportunity to register to vote, and students ended their day with a guided tour of the Capitol.

The 42 schools represented were: Cushman, Atkins, Western Grove, White County Central, DeQueen, Drew, Heber Springs, Mountain View, Accelerated Learning Center, Forrest City, Genoa Central, Dewitt, Mills University Studies, Southside, Rison, Blytheville, Bay, Warren, JA Fair, Lafayette County, Lockesburg, Plainview Rover, Marked Tree, Rivercrest, Cabot, Kirby, Marked Tree, Dermott, Yellville-Summit, West Memphis, Melbourne, Brinkley, Sparkman, Hughes, Westside, Rosebud, Mountain Home, Sheridan, Arkansas Workforce Center (El Dorado and Junction City), Midland, Arkansas, and McGehee.

## Secretary of State, UCA Partner for Civics Curriculum Project

The Arkansas Secretary of State has teamed with the University of Central Arkansas to create Arkansas-specific lesson plans for teaching civics to students in kindergarten through sixth grade. The plans will be available for use by Arkansas teachers for the second semester of this school year.

A committee of educators from around the state worked during the summer to develop lessons for the state's civics and social studies teachers. This project is part of Secretary Daniels' ongoing efforts to educate young Arkansans about the meaning of citizenship.

"Good citizens aren't just born—they're cultivated," said Secretary Daniels. "We want to take every opportunity possible to engage our youth in the political process and to teach them their rights and responsibilities as citizens."

Secretary Daniels said he realized the need for Arkansas-focused curriculum through the teacher in-service workshops his office conducts each year. Some of the national civics materials provided at the workshops needed fine-tuning to increase their relevance in Arkansas classrooms. The lesson plans

closely align with the Department of Education's new social studies frameworks.

Dr. Clay Arnold, chair of UCA's Political Science Department, is chairing the development committee. Committee members are:

*Advisory Group* -- Dr. Arnold and Kelly Lyon of UCA; Maggie Herrick, Sheree Baird, Barbara Patty (retired) and Vickie Yates of the Arkansas Department of Education; and Ann Clements, Secretary of State's office.

*K-4 Development Group* -- Darlene Black, Newport; Vicki Gonterman, Little Rock; Shirley Holloway, Bryant; Abby Stone, North Little Rock; and Sharon Rogers, Cabot.

*5-8 Development Group* -- Lloyd Clark, Walnut Ridge; Phyllis Flowers, Bryant; Jan Lloyd, Cabot; Tanesia Martin, Little Rock; and Laura Beth Arnold, Little Rock.

The Arkansas Civics Curriculum Project is funded in part by grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Center for Civic Education, along with in-kind contributions from the Secretary of State's Office, UCA, and the Arkansas Department of Education.

## Presidential Primary Reminders

**January 7, 2008**

**Voter Registration Deadline**

**January 29, 2008**

**Early Voting Begins**

**February 5, 2008**

**Presidential Preferential Primary Election**

Not sure if you're registered or where you vote? Log onto [www.voterview.org](http://www.voterview.org) to check your status.

## Capitol Reflections: A Vision Revised

Among the more eye-catching additions to the first-floor rotunda's new Visitor Center are three large panels depicting a sepia image of the State Capitol – albeit a slightly different version than the building standing today.

When the State Capitol Commission began planning for a new State Capitol almost 100 years ago, one of its first acts was hiring St. Louis architect George Mann, who had campaigned well for the job.

In January 1899, he placed a large watercolor rendering of a capitol building in the governor's office. The attractive designs, plus Mann's assurance that a building similar to the one depicted in the watercolor could be built for less than \$1 million, led the Commissioners to award him the job without competitive bids. However, after more than a decade of budget controversies and with a new architect, the State Capitol was completed as a revised, sleeker version of Mann's original vision.

The precise origin of the picture reproduced on the banners behind the Capitol tour desk is unclear. The original is a large ink, watercolor and gouache rendering, measuring nearly three feet by four feet and mounted on cardboard. It is unsigned and undated, but is closely related to George Mann's detailed architectural drawing, which the Commission approved in November 1899. It may have been Mann's original

rendering or an interim study prepared between May and November of 1899. It offers a tantalizing glimpse of the building that might have been, while revealing that the fundamental shape and arrangement of the Arkansas State Capitol were set early in the design process.

In the near future, reproductions of other George Mann-designed plans will be installed in the first floor rotunda area, revealing other features of the Capitol as originally envisioned.



Secretary of State staff members David Ware and John Wallace install the new artwork that accents the Capitol's renovated Visitor Center.

## Online Filing System Receives Digital Government Award

Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels recently received the 2007 Digital Government Achievement Award (DGAA) for "Best Franchise Tax Suite" in the Business-to-Government category.

The award honors the Secretary of State's innovative Franchise Tax Services Suite, which automates the processing of payments and filings. It was presented by the Center for Digital Government, a national organization that studies government policies and practices for information technology.

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels said the award is "a great honor because it represents our commitment to providing the best customer service possible to the citizens of Arkansas."

Created in partnership with the Information Network of Arkansas and Regions Bank, the pioneering web-based application has dramatically reduced processing time and costs. The Secretary of State's office estimates that the processing time has been reduced by 60 percent.

Arkansas was also in the top 10 nationally for its official

state portal, [www.arkansas.gov](http://www.arkansas.gov), which is also administered by INA.

### Dec. 31 Last Chance to File Franchise Taxes

The Business & Commercial Services Division has notified almost 19,000 entities in danger of forfeiting their corporate charters due to unpaid franchise taxes and required reporting. Payment of all franchise taxes, with penalty and interest, is due by Dec. 31, 2007. Delinquent entities will move from "not current" status to "revoked" on Jan. 1, 2008. Entities may file online at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) or contact the BCS office at 501-682-3409 or (888) 233-0325.

### BCS Seeks Updated Nonprofit Info

BCS is seeking nonprofit contact information to prepare for the new required annual report, which will be due by Aug. 1, 2008. Nonprofit entities can submit correct contact and address information by logging on to [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) or e-mailing [corporations@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:corporations@sos.arkansas.gov).



## Decking the Halls

The George Jernigan Tree, a live cedar located on the front lawn of the Capitol, will once again serve as the state's official Christmas tree and will be decorated with hundreds of glistening lights.

Inside, the Rotunda Tree will be adorned with large hand-painted globe ornaments, each depicting a unique scene from the state's 75 counties. Tracy and Donna Bemis of Wrightsville donated this year's live tree, which they delivered on November 27.

Families will find wonderful photo opportunities around the building – including the frosty bridge in the first floor rotunda, the ribbon-lined staircases and other settings.



## Planes, Trains and Automobiles

For older “kids,” this year's special holiday exhibit will be a peek back at the shop windows of the past. The Capitol's first floor displays will feature a host of vintage transportation toys, collectibles and award-winning models crafted by local modelers. These scale planes, trains and automobiles, including a working miniature train set, will be on display December 1 through New Year's Day.

## Sounds of the Season

Music of the holiday season will flow through the halls of the Capitol during the weeks of December 3 through December 14. More than 150 school choirs and dance troupes will perform in the Capitol rotunda each weekday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a highlight of the season for the performers and State Capitol staff members, as well as the many family members who also make the trip to Little Rock.



## Pearl Harbor Remembrance

The Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance reminds us to stay hopeful for peace, not only during the holiday season, but continually throughout the year. Always a moving service, the ceremony is held in the rotunda on December 7 to salute the veterans of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Blue lights just above the Capitol's front entrance spell out “Peace” in their honor.

## Collectible Ornaments

The series of collectible Capitol ornaments continues this year with a salute to the Mitchell-Vance chandelier that hangs high in the Rotunda. It's an especially apt holiday subject, representing the gift Arkansas presented to the state of Utah that is helping restore the chandelier's twin that hangs in Salt Lake City. *(See related article, page 2.)*





# *Capitol Report* – News and Updates from Your State Capitol



11-07

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## *A Winter Wonderland Holiday Celebration*

Arkansas may not see too much snow in December, but it'll be a frosty scene under the dome, which is set in snowy splendor for the 2007 Capitol Holidays! From the arrival of the Rotunda Christmas Tree and the fireworks of the Capitol Lighting Ceremony, until the last note of the choirs in December, this season's celebration offers something for the whole family. Make plans now to visit the Arkansas State Capitol during the holidays to experience a true Arkansas holiday tradition. For a complete schedule of events or to see photos from the performances, visit the State Capitol Holiday website at [www.sos.arkansas.gov/holidays2007](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/holidays2007) or call (501) 682-1010.

### **Capitol Lighting Ceremony**

The state's holiday season officially begins with the annual holiday lighting ceremony at the State Capitol on the evening of December 1. The children's craft tents will open at 4 p.m. on the Capitol lawn to entertain youngsters while they wait for the Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade. Then at dusk, the big celebration begins. Representatives from the Easter Seals Society will help Secretary of State Charlie Daniels illuminate the Capitol with hundreds of



thousands of lights outlining the building. The grand lighting ceremony concludes with a magnificent fireworks show above the gleaming Capitol dome.

Afterward, families can venture inside the Capitol to see a winter wonderland of decorations and enjoy performances by the Top of the Rock Chorus. Plus, the most anticipated man of the holiday season will make an appearance to welcome the children and find out who's been naughty or nice!

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